

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5746

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOSOUTH

US CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

US NMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 2717

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, NATO

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE OVER AEGEAN

REF: STATE 101599 (NOTAL)

1. PER INSTRUCTIONS RUMSFELD CALLED ON SYG LUNS AND OBSERVED THAT ON THE ONE HAND WE NOTE REPORTS OF INCREASINGLY STRONG POSITIONS BEING DISPLAYED BY SENIOR TURKISH OFFICIALS REGARDING PROBLEMS WITH GREECE. ON THE OTHER HAND IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH GREEK OFFICIALS IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GREECE IS HOLDING TO THE VIEW THAT THE GREEK LEGAL POSITION ON THE VARIOUS AEGEAN ISSUES IS IMPREGNABLE AND THEREFORE, THERE IS NOTHING TO DISCUSS WITH THE TURKS. 2. RUMSFELD SAID THESE STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL POSITIONS EXAMINED IN THE LIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS COMBINE TO DEEPEN OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE AEGEAN SITUATION:
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A) SENIOR GREEK ARMY OFFICERS ARE APPARENTLY MAKING CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR POSSIBLE USE OF MILITARY FORCE, ?) TURKEY HAS SCHEDULED A NAVAL AND AIR FIRING EXERCISE IN ONE OF THE DISPUTED AREAS OF THE AEGEAN, C) OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES BY FIRMS UNDER CONTRACT

TO TURKEY MAY SOON BEGIN, AND THE GREEK NAVY COULD USE FORCE
TO STOP SUCH EXPLORATION.

3. FOR THESE REASONS RUMSFELD SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO ASK
THE SYG TO SPEAK PRIVATELY WITH AMBASSADORS ERALP (TURKEY)
AND CHORAFAS (GREECE) ABOUT WHAT APPEARS TO BE A COLLISION COURSE
BETWEEN THE POLICIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND TO EMPHASIZE TO
THEM THE NECESSITY THAT ACTION BE TAKEN BY BOTH COUNTRIES TOWARD
RESOLUTION OF THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

4. LUNS REPLIED HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE TWO AMBASSADORS ABOUT TWO
WEEKS AGO URGING THAT BOTH COUNTRIES REFRAIN FROM STATEMENTS
OR ACTIONS WHICH COULD EXACERBATE THE PRESENT SITUATION, AND
THAT THEY ACTIVELY SEEK A COMPROMISE OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

5. TO RUMSFELD'S INQUIRY ABOUT RESPONSE FROM THE TWO GOVERNMENTS,
LUNS SAID THUS FAR ONLY CHORAFAS HAS REACTED TELLING LUNS THAT
THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE IN SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT. CHORAFAS SAID
THE GREEK POLITICAL DIRECTOR HAD RECENTLY MADE CONTACT WITH THE
TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK, AND THE TURKISH DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS WILL SOON GO TO ATHENS TO DISCUSS
OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

6. LUNS AGREED WITH RUMSFELD THAT THIS MATTER SHOULD BE FOLLOWED
UP AND HE WILL DO SO BEFORE HE DEPARTS FOR THE U.S. ON MAY 17.
LUNS SAID HE WILL USE THE U.S. DEMARCHE AS REASON TO REMIND
THE GREEK AND TURKISH PERMREPS THAT HE REQUESTS FURTHER REACTION
FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS. RUMSFELD

SECRET

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